

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend page 1, paragraph 1, to read as follows:

**[TITLE]**

[IMPROVED] APPARATUS FOR [THE] COLD STERILIZATION  
OF [A] FLUIDS [BY ULTRAVIOLET RAYS] OR THE LIKE

Please amend page 1, paragraph 2, to read as follows:

**[DESCRIPTION]**

Please amend page 1, paragraph 3, to read as follows:

**- - FIELD OF THE INVENTION - -****[Field of the Invention]**

The present invention [refers] relates generally to [the field of fluid sterilization]  
sanitation and, more [precisely] particularly, to [has as its object an improved apparatus  
for continuous] cold sterilization of [a] fluids [by ultraviolet rays] or the like.

Please amend page 1, paragraph 4, to read as follows:

**- - BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION - -**

[Description of the state of the art]

In cold sterilization of fluids, lamps are typically [used] arranged in the immediate vicinity of the fluid to be treated [and capable of], such lamps emitting ultraviolet wavelength radiation which[, as] is known[, has] to have relatively strong germicid[e]al properties.

Please amend page 3, first full paragraph, to read as follows:

**- - OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION - -**

[Objects and summary of the invention]

[The] Accordingly, it is an object[s] of the present invention [is] to provide an apparatus for [the] continuous cold sterilization of a fluid that [allows the abovementioned problems to be solved and more specifically that does not have the drawback of the] permits heating of the fluid but without [however penalizing] sacrificing the effects [exploitation] of [the] ultraviolet radiation emitted by the lamp and [therefore], hence, the sterilizing capability of the apparatus.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an apparatus for cold sterilization of a fluid that not only avoids the bulk of conventional arrangements, but also maintains effective and efficient fluid processing speeds.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an apparatus for cold sterilization of a fluid that provides maximum exploitation of ultraviolet radiation emitted while minimizing the risk of incomplete or nonexistent sterilization.

Please amend page 3, third full paragraph, to read as follows.

- - **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS** - -

[Brief description of the drawings]

[Further characteristics and advantages of the] A specific, illustrative apparatus, for [the] cold sterilization of a fluid [by ultraviolet rays], according to the present invention, [shall become clearer from the following description of an embodiment thereof, given as a non-limiting example] is described below with reference to the [attached] following drawings, in which:

Please amend page 3, fourth full paragraph, to read as follows:

[- figure] FIG. 1 is a sectional view of [the] an apparatus [made] for cold sterilization of a fluid by ultraviolet rays, according to one aspect of the present invention, taken along a vertical plane passing through the axis of the lamp;

Please amend page 4, paragraph 1, to read as follows:

[- figure] FIG. 2 is an enlarged detail view of [the detail indicated with] section A in [figure] FIG. 1;

Please amend page 4, paragraph 2, to read as follows:

[- figure] FIG. 3 is a side view of the apparatus shown in FIG. 1.

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph 2 on page 4:

- - The same numerals are used throughout the drawing figures to designate similar elements. Still other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiments. - -

Please amend page 4, paragraph 1, to read as follows:

- - **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS** - -

[Detailed description of the invention]

[With r]Refer[ence]ring now to the [aforementioned figures] drawings and, more particularly, to FIGS. 1 - 3, there is shown generally a specific, illustrative, [an] apparatus for continuous[ly] cold steriliz[ing]ation of a fluid, in accordance with various aspects of the present invention. According to one embodiment, shown generally in FIG. 1, the apparatus comprises a box-shaped casing, at least one ultraviolet radiation source 2, e.g., of the linear tubular lamp type, and at least one duct 3, permeable to such radiation, [in] through which a fluid 4 to be sterilized [4] flows. The duct [3] has a portion 3a that extends generally helically around [the] source 2, so that all of the radiation emitted [by it]

therefrom crosses the fluid [4] and exerts [the] a selected germicid[e]al [action] effect. At its outlet, [the] duct 3 is preferably connected to a dispensing device 10.

Please amend page 6, paragraph 2, to read as follows:

[Variations and/or] Various modifications and alterations [may be brought to the apparatus for continuously cold sterilizing a fluid according to the present invention, without departing from] may be appreciated based on a review of this disclosure. These changes and additions are intended to be within the scope and spirit of the invention as defined [in] by the [attached] following claims.